

Senate Bill 253

By: Senator Lucas of the 26th

**AS PASSED SENATE**

**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED**

**AN ACT**

1 To amend an Act to abolish the present model of compensating the Judge of the Probate  
2 Court of Twiggs County, known as the fee system, approved February 18, 1977 (Ga. L.  
3 1977, p. 2727), as amended, particularly by an Act approved March 31, 1992 (Ga. L. 1992,  
4 p. 5145), and an Act approved April 1, 1994 (Ga. L. 1994, p. 4547), so as to change the  
5 manner of fixing salary adjustments or allowances of the Judge of the Probate Court and  
6 employees of the Judge of the Probate Court; to provide the Judge of the Probate Court with  
7 the authority to fix the compensation of employees of the Judge of the Probate Court; to  
8 provide an effective date; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for  
9 other purposes.

10 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:**

11 **SECTION 1.**

12 An Act to abolish the present model of compensating the Judge of the Probate Court of  
13 Twiggs County, known as the fee system, approved February 18, 1977 (Ga. L. 1977, p.  
14 2727), as amended, particularly by an Act approved March 31, 1992 (Ga. L. 1992, p. 5145),  
15 and an Act approved April 1, 1994 (Ga. L. 1994, p. 4547), is amended by revising paragraph  
16 (1) of subsection (b) of Section 2 as follows:

17 "(1) On or after the effective date of this subsection, when the Board of Commissioners  
18 of Twiggs County make a cost-of-living adjustment or a cost-of-living allowance, also  
19 known as a 'COLA', to the compensation of county employees, the base salary of the  
20 Judge of the Probate Court provided in subsection (a) of this section, plus any previous  
21 adjustments which have been received by the Judge of the Probate Court under this  
22 paragraph after the effective date of this paragraph, shall receive the same COLA. For  
23 the purposes of this section, a COLA must be designated as such by the Board of  
24 Commissioners of Twiggs County, and shall be limited to a percentage increase in the  
25 employees' compensation for the specific purpose of covering the cost of inflation, which  
26 influences the cost of living expenses such as rent, food, gas, and clothing. The Board

27 of Commissioners of Twiggs County shall have the sole discretion as to the amount, if  
28 any, of a COLA."

29 **SECTION 2.**

30 Said Act is further amended by revising Section 4 as follows:

31 "SECTION 4.

32 The Judge of the Probate Court of Twiggs County, Georgia shall have the authority to  
33 appoint such deputies, clerks, assistants, and other personnel as said officer deems necessary  
34 to discharge the official duties of the office of the Judge of the Probate Court. The Judge of  
35 the Probate Court shall have the power and authority, during his or her term of office, to  
36 designate and name the person or persons who shall be employed as such deputies, clerks,  
37 assistants, or other employees; to prescribe their duties and assignments; to remove and  
38 replace such employees at will and within said officer's sole discretion; and to fix the  
39 compensation to be received by each employee within the budgetary constraints established  
40 by the Board of Commissioners of Twiggs County."

41 **SECTION 3.**

42 Said Act is further amended by revising subsection (c) of Section 5 as follows:

43 "(c) On or after the effective date of this subsection, when the Board of Commissioners of  
44 Twiggs County make a cost-of-living adjustment or a cost-of-living allowance, also known  
45 as a 'COLA', to the compensation of county employees, the compensation of the employees  
46 of the Judge of the Probate Court's office shall receive the same COLA. For the purposes  
47 of this section, a COLA must be designated as such by the Board of Commissioners of  
48 Twiggs County, and shall be limited to a percentage increase in the employees'  
49 compensation for the specific purpose of covering the cost of inflation, which influences  
50 the cost of living expenses such as rent, food, gas, and clothing. The Board of  
51 Commissioners of Twiggs County shall have the sole discretion as to the amount, if any,  
52 of a COLA."

53 **SECTION 4.**

54 This Act shall become effective on the first day of the month following the month in which  
55 it is approved by the Governor or in which it becomes law without such approval.

56 **SECTION 5.**

57 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.